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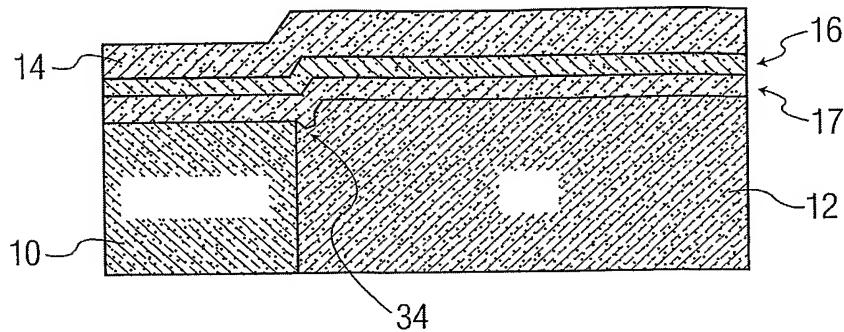
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(54) Title: METHOD TO REDUCE SEEDLAYER TOPOGRAPHY IN BICMOS PROCESS



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(57) Abstract: A method for forming an epitaxial base layer in a bipolar device. The method comprises the steps of: providing a structure having a field isolation oxide region (12) adjacent to an active silicon region (10); forming a silicon nitride/silicon stack (14, 16) above the field isolation oxide region (12), wherein the silicon nitride/silicon stack (14, 16) includes a top layer of silicon (14) and a bottom layer of silicon nitride (16); performing an etch to the silicon nitride/silicon stack (14, 16) to form a stepped seed layer, wherein the top layer of silicon is etched laterally at the same time the bottom layer of silicon nitride is etched; and growing an Si/SiGe/Si stack (20) over the stepped seed layer and active region (10).



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